

As a military manager/supervisor in the DoD of talented managers, scientists and engineers, I also have several individuals who are ACAT managers, and others who are leaders of supporting teams. During one of our recent office staff meetings, we reviewed meaning and implementation of the PM's Bill of Rights, related personal segments of DoD 5000 Policy, Acquisition Reform, and federal/OSD policies on Ethics, Morals and Values. The discussion became very heated when one of my team leaders brought up his "real" situation and the lack of leadership's support and compliance with these "meaningless," "esoteric," and "theoretical" matters. I was stymied when the matter focused to his "so what am I supposed to do now, become a whistle-blower and end my military career?"

The specific issue is as follows. A high-level, very senior civilian executive verbally "imposed" on the ACAT PM the immediate conversion of a critical weapon system acquisition strategy, from an ongoing production methodology based on the one and only proved technique, to one which, in reality, is different only by its title. The latter acquisition strategy will deliver the same product through the same manufacturing source and the same technique, with only a substantial increase in training/combat risk to the soldier and substantial unit cost increase (spread over 5-10 years will add up to hundreds of millions of dollars). This executive then shortly retired, leaving his imposed strategy to continue on, unchallengeable, under its own bureaucratic momentum.

I have read the *Program Manager* article by Lon Mehlman (January-February 1998), "NAVSTAR GEMS Project – A Total Digital Environment Success Story," and have the following comments.

First, I am a user of GEMS, a government configuration/data management specialist. I was one of the government personnel that worked with CSC to develop the requirements for GEMS.

In my opinion, to date GEMS falls far short of what the system needed to accomplish its intended function. I have a letter from one of the GPS Pro-

gram Office contractors, [whose company] has been put on contract to deliver all contractual data [via] GEMS, and this particular contractor is "VERY UNHAPPY" with GEMS.

Anonymous

Editor's Note: I forwarded your comments to Eleanor Hill, Department of Defense Inspector General (DoDIG). Section 1034 of Title 10, United States Code, and DoD Directive 7050.6, "Military Whistleblower Protection," address the rights and protections afforded all members of the armed forces. (The DoDIG also investigates defense contractor and nonappropriated fund employee whistleblower complaints under different statutes and directives. Federal employee whistleblowers file allegations through the Office of Special Counsel.)

For copies of the two publications cited or information on how to obtain them, call the Directorate for Administration and Resources Acquisition, Office of the Assistant Inspector General for Administration and Information Management: (703) 604-9898.

Any member of the armed forces may also call or write the DoD Hotline to report instances of fraud, waste, or mismanagement:

DoD Hotline
Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1900

Comm: (703) 604-8569
Toll-Free: (800) 424-9098
DSN: 664-8569

At this time, I am working on two new proposed contracts and I "WILL NOT" use GEMS. I plan to go back to the "OLD U.S. MAIL HARD COPY" for data delivery due to all the problems with GEMS.

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